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PAGE 001

NC 0501049

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 DE RUEHCV #1243/01 0431646  
 ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
 O 121639Z FEB 83  
 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4203  
 INFO RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
 RUEADWW/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC  
 RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY BELIZE 0137  
 RUESBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 6407  
 RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1400  
 RUESMG/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 1443  
 RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0984  
 RUEHJP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 5100  
 RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 1233  
 RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 1763  
 RUESSD/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 1594  
 RUESTE/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 1086  
 RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7971  
 RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0639  
 BT  
 S E C R E T CARACAS 01243

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DEPARTMENT FOR ENDERS  
 WHITE HOUSE FOR CLARK  
 CIA FOR DIRECTOR CASEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: OVIP (KIRKPATRICK, JEANE), PREL, XK, US, VE

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK'S DISCUSSION WITH

- VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HERRERA CAMPINS, FEBRUARY 11:  
 - PRESIDENT SUPPORTS HONDURAN PLAN FOR MEETING OF  
 - CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS  
 -

1. (SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT HERRERA CAMPINS ASKED AMBASSADOR  
 KIRKPATRICK TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN HIS FULL  
 SUPPORT FOR A PEACE CONFERENCE CONSISTING OF THE FIVE  
 CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES--GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, EL  
 SALVADOR, COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA--PLUS VENEZUELA, MEXICO,  
 PANAMA, COLOMBIA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (AND WITHOUT  
 THE UNITED STATES). HE MADE A PLEA TO PRESIDENT REAGAN  
 THAT THE U.S. NOT REPEAT NOT TORPEDO THIS INITIATIVE  
 WHICH HE THINKS IS MOST HELPFUL.

3. AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK, AMBASSADOR SORZANO, AND  
 AMBASSADOR LANDAU MET FOR AN HOUR WITH PRESIDENT LUIS  
 HERRERA CAMPINS EARLY EVENING OF FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11.  
 DURING THIS TALK, PRESIDENT HERRERA MADE THE FOLLOWING  
 POINTS CONCERNING CENTRAL AMERICA WHICH HE ASKED AMBASSA-  
 DOR KIRKPATRICK TO TRANSMIT TO PRESIDENT REAGAN UPON HER  
 RETURN TO WASHINGTON. THESE WERE:

**SECRET**

**SECRET**

83 0501049

SSO

PAGE 002

NC 0501049

TOR: 121658Z FEB 83

--VENEZUELA SHARES THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS CRITICAL AND THAT URGENT ACTION MUST BE TAKEN QUICKLY BY ALL CONCERNED STATES TO CHECK THE GROWING INSTABILITY IN THE AREA.

--CONDITIONS MUST BE CREATED SO THAT THE STATES IN THE REGION WHICH HAVE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS CAN PRESERVE AND BUILD UPON THOSE ACHIEVEMENTS, AND THAT STATES WHICH ARE TRYING TO ESTABLISH DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS CAN HAVE A CHANCE AT SUCCESS.

--HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO VENEZUELA OUTLINED THE GOH PROPOSAL TO HOLD IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE A MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA, WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF VENEZUELA, MEXICO, COLOMBIA, PANAMA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC INVITED AS OBSERVERS. THIS MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, OR MORE LIKELY (AND MORE SUITABLY) IN PANAMA.

--THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS INITIATIVE AS IT WOULD ALLOW ALL SIDES TO AIR THEIR DIFFERENCES IN THE NEUTRAL TERRITORY OF A DEMOCRATIC STATE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN CENTRAL AMERICA'S DIFFERENCES. VENEZUELA EARLIER HAD TRIED TO HELP DEFUSE TENSIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA ON A BILATERAL BASIS WITH CONCERNED STATES, BUT THESE EFFORTS WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL. NOW IT IS TIME TO TURN TO A MULTILATERAL APPROACH.

--VENEZUELA BELIEVES THAT ALL OF THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE HONDURAN INITIATIVE WILL AGREE TO PARTICIPATE, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF NICARAGUA. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT VENEZUELA HAS INVITED BAYARDO ARCE OF NICARAGUA TO MAKE AN URGENT VISIT TO CARACAS NEXT WEEK AFTER THE CARNIVAL HOLIDAYS. THE HOPE IS THAT THROUGH HIM THE GOV CAN CONVINCE THE SANDINISTA JUNTA TO AGREE TO PARTICIPATE. IF THE MEETING IS TO BE A SUCCESS, NICARAGUAN PRESENCE IS ESSENTIAL. PRESIDENT HERRERA WANTED THE USG TO KNOW OF THIS TRIP AND THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH BAYARDO ARCE HAD BEEN INVITED.

--THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO POSSIBILITY THAT CUBA WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, AND NO DOOR WILL BE OPENED TO CUBA.

--PRESIDENT HERRERA WILL BE MAKING A TRIP TO COSTA RICA LATER IN THE MONTH TO DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER ISSUES WITH PRESIDENT MONGE.

4. IN AN IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ZEMBRANO, THE SAME GENERAL POINTS WERE MADE.

5. PRESIDENT HERRERA ASKED AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK TO ADVISE PRESIDENT REAGAN OF VENEZUELAN SUPPORT OF THIS HONDURAN INITIATIVE, AND TO EXPRESS HIS HOPE THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THE USG WILL UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT THE UNITED STATES DO NOTHING "TO TORPEDO" THIS EFFORT. AFTERWARDS, A MEETING AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL OF THE STATES INVOLVED IS BEING CONSIDERED. PRESIDENT HERRERA REPEATEDLY STRESSED HOW CRITICAL THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS AT THE MOMENT, AND HOW NECESSARY IT IS FOR THE CONCERNED DEMOCRATIC STATES OF THE REGION TO ACT WITH DISPATCH. UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDING OF THIS IS ESSENTIAL, HE EMPHASIZED. PRESIDENT HERRERA CAMPINS WAS CONFIDENT THAT MEXICO WOULD ATTEND.

6. AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT ALL

**SECRET**

**SECRET**

83 0501049

SSO

PAGE 003

NC 0501049

TOR: 121658Z FEB 83

OF THE LEADERS SHE MET WITH IN THE FOUR COUNTRIES SHE HAD VISITED IN THE LAST DAYS HAD ALSO EXPRESSED TO HER SIMILAR PREOCCUPATIONS ABOUT THE EXPLOSIVENESS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THAT SHE ALSO WAS CONVINCED THAT URGENT STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO AVOID FURTHER DETERIORATION.

7. AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK TOLD PRESIDENT HERRERA THAT SHE WOULD CARRY HIS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN, AND THAT THE GREATEST WEIGHT WOULD BE GIVEN TO HIS CONCERNS.

8. AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK HAS APPROVED THIS MESSAGE.

LANDAU

END OF MESSAGE

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